

From: Paul Lorenz
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:48am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Attn: Justice Department

<quoted from R. Cringley>

Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profits. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "... (c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..."

</end quote>

Since many of MicroSofts greatest competitors are Open Source, this effectively bars them from competition. Also why is MicroSoft, which supposed to be penalized, being allowed to decide anything, much less who will be allowed access to it's APIs? They are experts at weaseling out of things, and they will doubtless use any cause, however flimsey to show a company is not 'viable'. Any company that is beyond reproach will doubtless not need access.

The settlement is a travesty and helps Microsoft, and does not penalize or address the root cause of the case, that being MicroSoft's monopolistic practices.

A 3 member panel to watch over MicroSoft is also ridiculous. First off, 3 people do not have the resources to watch over the behemoth that is MicroSoft and secondly, why is MicroSoft being allowed to choose it's watchers?

MicroSoft has been found guilty of illegally perpetuating a monopoly. Their monopolization should be hindered, not helped. The Justice department should be ashamed. This settlement has nothing to do with Justice and everything to do with pandering to MicroSoft. This is inexcusable.

Sincerely,
Paul Lorenz

Rochester, NY
Software Engineer, NetSetGo Inc.